



UNIT #2 – READING SECTION

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Is That a *Plant*?

Roses and daisies are pretty flowers, and they smell good. They have leaves, petals, and stems. But not all plants are like them! Let's read about two very strange plants.

The *Hydnora africana* has no leaves or stem. It has a flower that looks like a hungry mouth! Inside is white stuff that stinks. Insects are attracted to the smell. But the smell is a trick! When an insect enters the plant, it is trapped. It can't move. While the insect is in the flower, pollen sticks to the insect. A few days later, the flower opens and the insect is free. Then it takes the pollen to another flower. The flower has done its job!



Hydnora africana

The white baneberry is also called "doll's eyes." Its fruit looks like eyes on blood red stems! It is round and white and has a black dot. Birds eat the fruit and spread the seeds. That's how the doll's eyes makes other plants. The fruit does not hurt the birds, but it's poisonous to people! Touching any part of the plant causes blisters! Eating the fruit can stop a person's heart.



The *Welwitschia mirabilis* can live without rain for years. Some have lived for 2,000 years!

	<i>Hydnora africana</i>	White baneberry
leaves and stems	no	yes
poisonous	no	yes
stinky	yes	no
fruit	yes	yes



13 Work with a partner. Which plant is cooler?
Tell your partner why you think the plant is cool.